

UNCLASSIFIED 10/7/79
Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY HA:CEMIG
APPROVED BY HA:CSALMON, JR.
PA:FAHARRIS
ARA/ECA:JWHITHAN

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R 072003Z OCT 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 263692

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE PHENOMENON OF
DISAPPEARANCES

1. THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HELD A SECOND SET OF HEARINGS ON THE PHENOMENON OF DISAPPEARANCES AS A MAJOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1979. THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES TESTIFIED: BISHOP HELMUT FRENZ, FORMER WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE IN CHILE; JUDGE HARVIN FRANKEL OF THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS; LILIANA ANDRES DE ANTEKOLEZ, AN ARGENTINE LAWYER WHO DISAPPEARED WITH HER HUSBAND, DANIEL VICTOR ANTEKOLEZ, IN 1976 (SHE REAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ABDUCTION, HE REMAINS DISAPPEARED); SOVIET DISSIDENT ALEXANDER GINSBURG; HEATHER FOOTE OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM EL SALVADOR; AND F. ALLEN HARRIS, FORMER HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER AT EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES.

2. BISHOP FRENZ CONCENTRATED HIS REMARKS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DIHA, HOLDING IT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WIDESPREAD, ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CHARGING THE JUDICIARY WITH "COWARDICE AND LACK OF PROFESSIONAL HONESTY" FOR FAILING TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCES.

3. THE NEXT TWO WITNESSES, JUDGE FRANKEL AND MRS. DE ANTEKOLEZ, FOCUSED ON DISAPPEARANCES IN ARGENTINA. JUDGE FRANKEL, A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION'S MISSION TO ARGENTINA, ASSERTED THAT THE RIGHT TO BE SECURE AGAINST CONFINEMENT, ASSAULT, TORTURE, AND DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THOSE WIELDING THE POWER OF THE STATE HAS FOR YEARS BEEN DENIED TO THOUSANDS OF ARGENTINES. MRS. DE ANTEKOLEZ THEN TESTIFIED IN DETAIL OF HER EXPERIENCES WHILE KIDNAPPED AND HER LATER EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT HER HUSBAND.

4. ALEXANDER GINSBURG, THE ONLY WITNESS WHO DID NOT DEAL WITH LATIN AMERICA, TESTIFIED NEXT, DECLARING THAT DISAPPEARANCES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE SOVIET UNION SINCE THE TIME OF LENIN TO THE PRESENT, AND THAT ONLY WITHDRAWAL OF "U.S. SUPPORT" FOR THE SOVIET REGIME WOULD ALTER THE PRACTICE.

5. HEATHER FOOTE SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON DISAPPEARANCES IN EL SALVADOR BASED ON A RECENT TRIP THERE, BUT TIME

CONSTRAINTS PREVENTED HER TESTIFYING AT LENGTH. SIMILARLY, TIME AND THE NECESSITY FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION LIMITED MR. HARRIS' TESTIMONY. CHAIRMAN BONKER WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN HOW EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES APPROACHED THE PROBLEM OF DISAPPEARANCES. MR. HARRIS RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY SERVED AS BOTH A TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER OF INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HAD RECEIVED REPORTS REGARDING OVER 10,000 DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED PERSONS. HE ADDED THAT OVER 1200 REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FOWG HAD BEEN MADE BY THE EMBASSY AS OF THE END OF AUGUST, ALTHOUGH IN MOST CASES THE FOWG RESPONDED WITH LITTLE OR NO NEW INFORMATION. CONGRESSMAN BONKER'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE REACTIONS/ATTITUDES OF FOREIGN OFFICE EMPLOYEES TO THE DISAPPEARANCES LED MR. HARRIS TO REQUEST THAT SUCH TESTIMONY BE RESERVED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECESSED WITH CHAIRMAN BONKER PROMISING TO HOLD FUTURE HEARINGS. VANCE

Argentina

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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